



Tactical Combat Casualty Care for All Combatants

Airway Management Practical



Is the Casualty Responsive?

- If the casualty appears to be unconscious, see if he will respond. In a loud, but calm, voice, ask something simple like: “Are you okay?” Also, gently shake or tap the casualty’s shoulder.
- If the casualty does not respond, your next step is to ensure he is breathing.





Opening the Airway

- If a casualty is not breathing or is having difficulty breathing, open his airway using either the head tilt/chin-lift or jaw thrust maneuver.
 - Even if an unconscious casualty is breathing on his own at the moment, protecting his open airway will assure his ability to continue breathing.



Head Tilt / Chin Lift

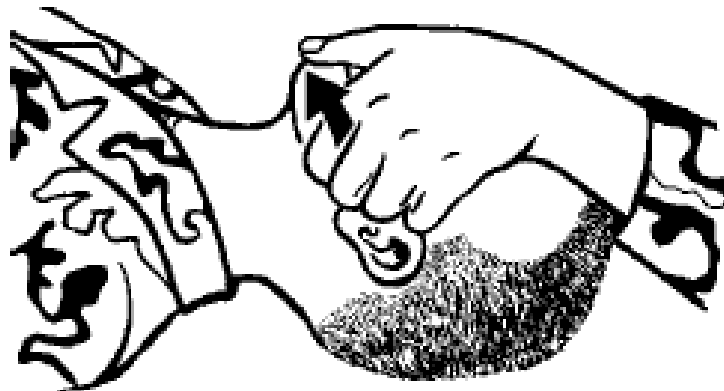
- Place one hand on the casualty's forehead and apply firm, backward pressure with the palm to tilt the head back.
- Place the fingertips of the other hand under the bony part of the lower jaw and lift, bringing the chin forward.
- The fingers should not press deeply into the soft tissue of the neck, as this may obstruct the airway.





Jaw Thrust

- Position yourself at the casualty's head with your elbows on the surface on which the casualty is lying.
- Using both hands, grasp the angles of the casualty's jaw, and lift the jaw.
- Keep the casualty's head from tilting backwards or moving sideways





Maintain an Open Airway

- Maintain Head-Tilt/Chin-Lift or Jaw Thrust
- **Look, Listen, and Feel** for breathing.
- Count respirations for 30 seconds and multiply by 2.
- Remove any foreign matter from mouth.
- An NPA is the next step.





Nasopharyngeal Airway





Nasopharyngeal Airway

- Do not use the nasopharyngeal airway (NPA) if there is evidence of head trauma and the roof of the casualty's mouth shows signs of trauma.
- Do not use the nasopharyngeal airway if there is evidence of head trauma and clear fluid is coming from the ears or nose.



Nasopharyngeal Airway

- Place the casualty on his back.
- Remove the NPA and its lubricant from the casualty's JFAK.
- Lubricate the tube





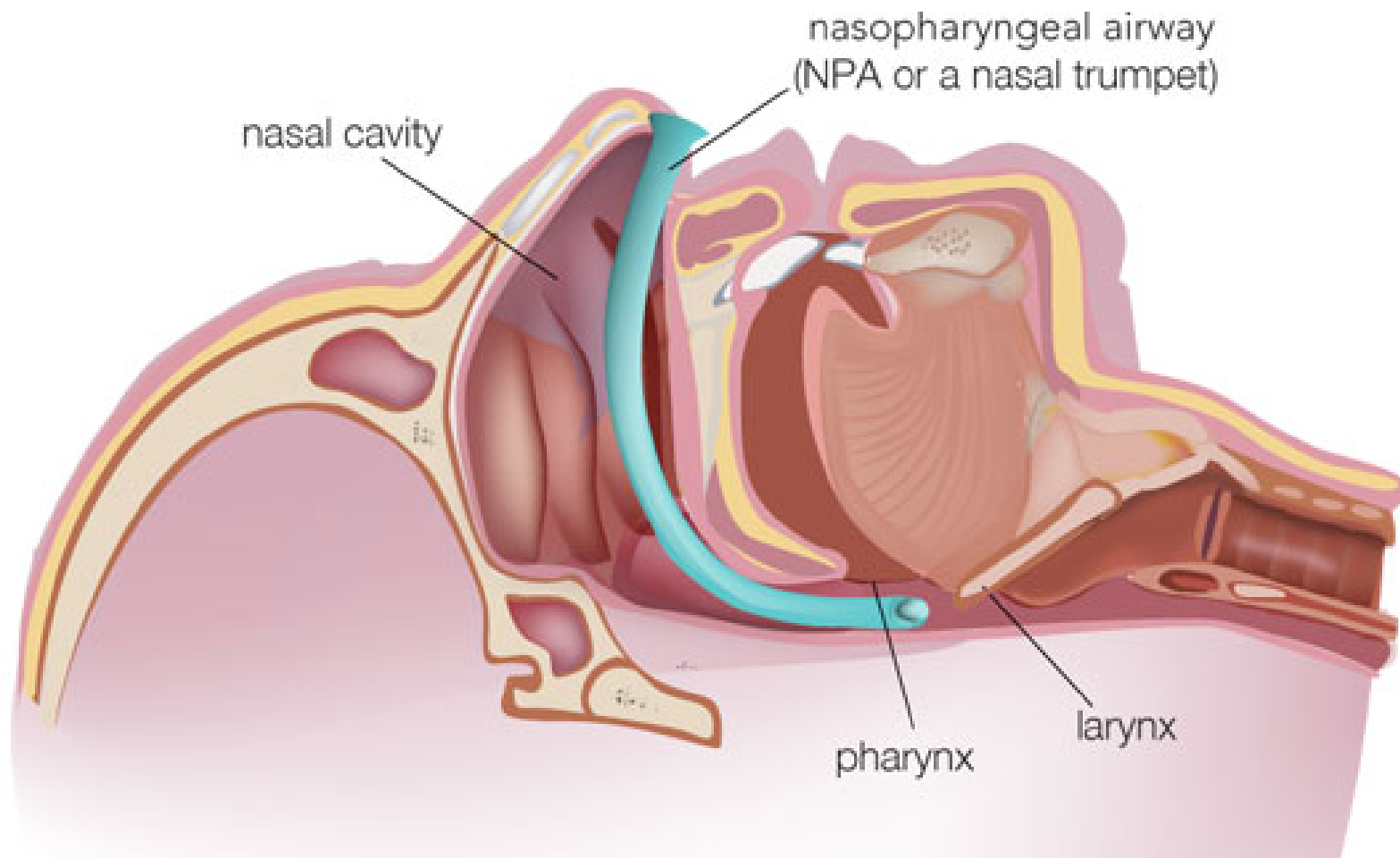
Nasopharyngeal Airway

- Insert the tip of the airway into either nostril with the bevel facing the nasal septum.
 - Align the NPA perpendicular to the face and go straight in.
 - Do not follow the ridge of the nose upward toward the brain.
- Advance the NPA until the flange rests against the nostril.
 - If you meet resistance, try gently rotate the NPA a little.
 - If that doesn't work, try the other nostril.
- Tape the NPA in place to prevent migration.





Nasopharyngeal Airway





Nasopharyngeal Airway





Nasopharyngeal Airway

- If you can't get the NPA to pass fully into either nostril, put the casualty in the recovery position and seek medical help.
- A medic or corpsman will have to attempt a more advanced airway.

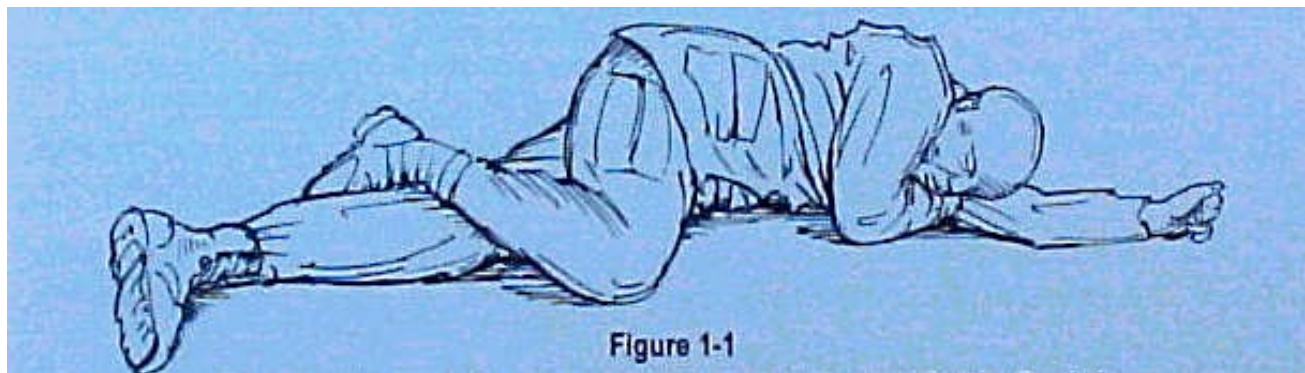


Figure 1-1



Questions?

